

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Office Action mailed October 31, 2007.

By this Amendment, claims 2-5, 7-17, 19-22 and 25 have been amended to depend on allowed claim 27 and to be consistent with the limitations of the claim. Further, claim 27 has been amended to effect some minor amendments to the claim. Lastly, claim 29 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Thus, in view of the amendments to the claims, claims 1, 6, 18, 23, 24 and 28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to their underlying subject matter. Thus, claims 2-5, 7-17, 19-22, 25-27 and 29 are currently pending in this application with claims 4, 10-12, 20-22, 25 and 26 being withdrawn. Support for the claim amendments can be readily found variously throughout the specification and the original claims, see, in particular, page 27, lines 3-12 and 18-28, of the specification, and Fig. 14B of the drawings.

In view of these amendments, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

However, in the interest of expediting the allowance of the present application, Applicant has amended claim 29 to overcome this rejection by clarifying that *“neutral grounding is formed between a first electric power source connected to one of said electrode plates, and a second electric power source connected to the other electrode plate”*.

Thus, in view of the amendments to claim 29, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 13, 19 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Horiike et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,185,132). Further, claims 1-3, 5, 8, 13, 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Denes et al. (U.S. Patent No.

6,764,658). These rejections have been overcome by the cancellation of claim 1 and the amendments to claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 16, 19 and 29 to depend on allowed claim 27. Thus, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 7, 9 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Denes et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,764,658) in view of Kim et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0070760). Further, claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Denes et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,764,658) in view of Dornfest et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,959,409). Lastly, claims 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Denes et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,764,658) in view of Hayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,578,130). These rejections have been overcome by the amendments to claims 7, 9, 14, 15, 17 and 29 to depend on allowed claim 27. Thus, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Request for Rejoinder

Applicant also hereby formally requests rejoinder of non-elected claims 4, 10-12, 20-22, 25 and 26 upon the allowance of the elected claims. The non-elected claims include all the limitations of allowable claim 27 and thus, are directed to the elected specie currently being prosecuted.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are believed to be clearly patentable over the outstanding rejections. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the claims in light of the above remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Dated: January 31, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By:  _____

Lee Cheng

Registration No.: 40,949

CHENG LAW GROUP PLLC

1100 17th Street, N.W.

Suite 503

Washington, DC 20036

(202) 530-1280

Attorney for Applicant

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-4422 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.